

Message Text

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ORIGIN XMB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 DOTE-00 INT-08 AGR-20 GSA-02

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /071 R

66610

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----- 124298

R 122105Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, GB

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC DATA

1. WE APPRECIATE OF ECONOMIC INFORMATION PROVIDED BY EMBASSY BUT REQUESTS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO ASSIST EXIMBANK IS ESTIMATING FUTURE DEBT SERVICING CAPACITY AND DEBT SERVICING OBLIGATIONS OF GABONESE ECONOMY. BANK IS INTERESTED IN RESOURCES WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DEBT SERVICING AT TIME LOANS FOR TRANS-GABON RAILROAD COME DUE. BANK IS AWARE OF DIFFICULTY OF MAKING PROJECTIONS BUT WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER ESTIMATES EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE. SPECIFICALLY, EXIMBANK WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ESTIMATES OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR 1974 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS:

(A) PETROLEUM: EXIMBANK ASSUMES PRODUCTION ESTIMATES OF LIBREVILLE A-35 (APRIL 16, 1974) STILL HOLD. WHAT IS ESTIMATED PRODUCTION AFTER 1975? WHAT ARE ESTIMATED F.O.F. PRICES FOR 1974, AND ARE THESE EXPECTED TO BE APPLICABLE FOR FUTURE EXPORT PROJECTIONS? SHOULD WE ESTIMATE GOG BUDGETARY RECEIPTS AT DOLS 5/BBL FOR 1974 AS WELL AS SUBSEQUENT YEARS?

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(B) TIMBER: WHAT ARE EMBASSY'S BEST PROJECTIONS OF TIMBER EXPORTS (VOLUME AND VALUE) IN 1974-1978? WHAT ARE ESTIMATED GOG BUDGETARY RECEIPTS FOR THESE YEARS? ARE ESTIMATES OF LIBREVILLE 1131 (DEC. 14, 1973) STILL ACCURATE AS TO VALUE AND TIMING OF INCREASED GOG TIMBER BUDGETARY RECEIPTS DUE TO RAILROAD? HOW MUCH IS THE VALUE OF TIMBER EXPORTS EXPECTED TO RISE DUE TO RAILROAD?

(C) MANGANESE: WHAT ARE ESTIMATES OF MANGANESE EXPORTS AND GOG BUDGETARY RECEIPTS FOR 1974 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS? HOW MUCH (VOLUME AND VALUE) WILL RAILROAD INCREASE ANNUAL MANGANESE EXPORTS AND GOG BUDGETARY RECEIPTS ABOVE WHAT OTHERWISE POSSIBLE? WHEN WILL RAILROAD BEGIN HAULING MANGANESE?

(D) URANIUM: WOULD APPRECIATE SAME INFORMATION AS FOR MANGANESE.

2. WOULD
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC STABILITY, DATA, EXPORTS, TIMBER, PETROLEUM, PRICES, FINANCIAL DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE200921
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: XMB:SLPEARSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740255-1159
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740950/aaaabqqh.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN XMB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC DATA
TAGS: EFIN, GB, EXIMBANK
To: LIBREVILLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005